

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 02937 130023Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 INRE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 DHA-02 ORM-01 TRSE-00 SP-02  
SCA-01 PRS-01 PA-01 USIE-00 SY-02 L-01 VO-01  
/050 W

-----009141 130039Z /72-62

O 122355Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5815

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 2937

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SREF, HA  
SUBJECT: HAITIANS AT GUANTANAMO BAY

FOLLOWING REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION:

QUOTE

O 122124Z AUG 77  
FM COMNAVBASE GUANTANAMO BAY CUBA  
TO RUCBSAA/CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA  
INFO RUESPR/AMEMB PORT AU PRINCE HAITI  
RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC  
RUCLDHA/COMNAVFORCARIB ROOSEVELT ROADS PR

C O N F I D E N T I A L /NOFORN/LIMDIS //N05711//  
CNO FOR OP-61

A. COMNAVASE GUANTANAMO BAY CUBA 111504Z AUG 77  
1. (U) REF A WAS SITREP 001. THIS IS SITREP 002.  
2. (C/NOFORN) REF A WAS INITIAL REPORT CONCERNING ARRIVAL AT GTMO OF  
ONE HUNDRED AND ONE HAITIANS (69 MALE AND 29 FEMALE ADULTS AND 1 FE-  
MALE AND 2 MALE CHILDREN) DURING THE EVENING OF 10 AUG. HAITIAN  
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VESSEL WAS LEAKING AND, UPON INSPECTION, DETERMINED TO BE UNSEA-  
WORTHY. HAITIANS REQUESTED ASSISTANCE OF A LOAN OF TOOLS AND FRESH  
WATER BUT NOT, REPEAT, NOT ASYLUM. THEY WERE TAKEN TO TEMPORARY  
QUARTERS CONSISTING OF 72 BEDS AND 29 COTS AND HAVE BEEN PROVIDED ALL  
NECESSITIES AND MEDICAL CARE, AS REQUIRED.  
3. (C/NOFORN) PREPARATIONS WERE MADE TO RETURN THEM TO HAITI ON 11  
AUG ABOARD STATION AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, THEY REFUSED TO MOVE FROM

THEIR TEMPORARY QUARTERS OR TO BOARD BUS ALLEGING FEAR OF REPRISAL FROM GOH SINCE THEY DEPARTED WITHOUT REQUIRED PERMITS AND THAT THEY WOULD PROBABLY BE SHOT IF THEY RETURNED. ALL ATTEMPTS TO PERSUADE THEM FAILED, THEREFORE, ASSISTANCE WAS REQUESTED FROM AMEMB PAP.

4. (C/NOFORN) ONE U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIAL AND THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION OF GOH WERE BROUGHT TO GTMO ABOARD STATION AIRCRAFT 0930Q, 12 AUG, THEIR ATTEMPTS TO ALLAY THE FEARS OF THE GROUP WERE SUCCESSFUL, HOWEVER, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO CONVINCE THE HAITIANS TO RETURN TO HAITI. THEY ARE FROM ONE OF THE MOST DEPRESSED AREAS OF HAITI WHERE HUNGER IS A FACTOR. THEY SIMPLY WISH TO HAVE GREATER OPPORTUNITIES. IT IS PROBABLE THAT THEIR REAL GOAL IS MIAMI AND THE U.S. SEVERAL HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY BELIEVE THEY COULD FIND WORK IN THAT AREA.

5. (C/NOFORN) WHILE THE HAITIANS ARE ADAMENT IN THEIR REFUSAL TO GO BACK TO HAITI, THEY ARE, OTHERWISE, NOT HOSTILE OR UNCOOPERATIVE. THEY ARE WILLING TO LEAVE THE BASE IF THEIR BOAT IS RETURNED TO THEM AND IF THEY CAN BE ON THEIR WAY. SRD ESTIMATES FIVE FULL WORKING DAYS TO STOP LEAKS, EIGHT WEEKS TO MAKE BOAT SEAWORTHY AND CONSIDERABLE COST.

6. (C/NOFORN) IT IS NOT RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOAT BE RETURNED TO THEM BECAUSE THE TOTAL GROUP WILL ATTEMPT TO REEMBARK AND CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY. MAXIMUM LOAD ON A FULLY REPAIRED AND SEAWORTHY BOAT WOULD BE ABOUT THIRTY PERSONS. ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL ON BOARD ARE CONSIDERED UNSAFE.

7. (C/NOFORN) THE DAILY FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER COST TO PROVIDE SECURITY AND CARE FOR THIS LARGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES WILL PLACE A CONFIDENTIAL

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SIGNIFICANT BURDEN ON THE BASE IF THEY STAY IS PROLONGED. MOREOVER, IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE LONGER THEY REMAIN HERE UNDER RELATIVELY COMFORTABLE CIRCUMSTANCES THE MORE LIKELY IT IS THAT OTHER HAITIANS WILL FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE. FINALLY, THE SITUATION INVITES PROPAGANDA EXPLOITATION WHEN NEWS OF IT BECOMES PUBLIC, AS IT EVENTUALLY WILL. IN THIS REGARD, FOURTEEN NEWS MEDIA REPS, INCLUDING NEW YORK TIMES, WASHINGTON POST, UPI, STERN MAGAZINE, AND OTHERS, ARE SCHEDULED TO VISIT GTMO 29 AUG TO 2 SEP.

8. (C/NOFORN) UP TO NOW, NO PHYSICAL FORCE HAS BEEN USED IN AN ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE THE HAITIANS TO LEAVE. DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION VOLUNTEERED THAT HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO OUR USE OF FORCE AS NECESSARY TO MOVE THE PEOPLE. NO SUCH REQUEST WAS MADE OF HIM BY NAVBASE. AT THIS TIME IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT ANY VOLUNTARY RETURN IS POSSIBLE.

9. (C/NOFORN) REFUGEES EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THE CARE AND ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY FOOD PROVIDED. THANKS WERE ALSO EXPRESSED BY THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF HAITI.

10. (C/NOFORN) INTEND CONTINUING TO PROVIDE FOR ALL NECESSITIES FOR PERSONNEL INVOLVED. BUILDING IN USE IS IN ISOLATED FENCED AREA WITH MINIMUM SECURITY PERSONNEL IN USE. NO PHYSICAL CONFRONTATIONS LIKELY.

11. (U) REQUEST ADVISE.

GDS-83

UNQUOTE JONES

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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